

Sioux Falls Veterans Administration
Medical and Regional Office Center
2501 West 22nd
Sioux Falls
Minnehaha County
South Dakota

HABS No. SD-20

HABS
SD,
50-SIOFA,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Historic Name: Sioux Falls Veterans Administration Hospital

Location: 2501 West 22nd
Sioux Falls, (Minnehaha County), South Dakota

U.S.G.S. Map Quad: Sioux Falls West, South Dakota
UTM's: Point Zone Easting Northing
 A 14 681230 4822225
 8 14 681510 4822215
 C 14 681520 4821842
 D 14 681315 4821850

Present Owner: Veterans Administration, U.S. Government

Present Use: Hospital

Significance: The Sioux Falls Veterans Administration Medical and Regional Office Center is significant for its architecture. Buildings 1 and 5 are locally significant examples of Jacobethan and Gothic architectural styles. The two structures and the surrounding land, consisting mostly of the front yards to the east, were determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places on May 11, 1981.

Report by: Karen Ronne Tupek, Program Analyst/Architect
Historic Preservation Office
Veterans Administration
Washington, DC 20420

March, 1986

PART 1.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

A. Physical History:

1. Date of Erection: Building 1 in 1920; Building 5 in 1948.
2. Architect: Building 1 is unknown; Building #5 was designed by Veterans Administration architects (No government employees were given credit for specific designs.)
3. Land Acquisition: In 1919, 40 acres of land were sold to the Diocese of Sioux Falls. Two years later in 1921, Columbus College, also known as St. Bernard's Seminary and was affiliated with the Diocese, constructed a main classroom building (now Building 1), a gymnasium and a boiler plant at a cost of \$516,000. The property's 1926 mortgage for \$600,000. was foreclosed on and the property sold in 1940 to Catholic Chancery Office, Inc. for \$50,000. The VA acquired it in March of 1944.
4. Construction Background: The large 283 bed general medical hospital, Building 5, was designed by the VA and built in 1948, at a cost of \$3,862,594. The hospital was dedicated on July 24, 1949, as the Royal C. Johnson Veterans Memorial Hospital.
5. Original Plans and Construction: Building 5's architecture was inspired by the 1920 Jacobethan style Building 1, already existing on the site. VA planners expanded on the architectural themes in the Jacobethan style and their design evolved into a clever adaption of Jacobethan style combined with the Gothic style applied to a massive "institutional" structure. It was to have a formal elevated main entrance so as to let the visitor know where the new "main" building was. The 45 degree angled wings broke the massing of the main facade and at the same time, one wing angled almost deferentially towards the original building, to which it connected via a one story corridor.
6. Alterations and Additions: The only major addition to the historic district site has been the recent construction of a large one story VA regional office building. It was sited to the northeast corner of the property. Because of the grades and distance, it does not impact the view of Buildings 1 and 5. The parking lots in that area were revised and new spaces were added. The regional office building is flat roofed, finished in warm red brick and has rounded corners. Small mechanical and electrical equipment structures have also been added in the rear area of the main hospital.

- B. Historical Context: The desire on the part of the VA federal planners to adapt to local design traditions was a significant trend in institutional planning. The fine detail of construction and the cohesiveness of the campus are exceptional. Though there was very little Jacobethan architecture in the immediate area at the time, the VA desired to construct a building that would fit into the architectural context of the site as well as one that would be an asset to the community rather than a bland, institutional looking structure. Building 5 reflects a conscious policy to design buildings that "fit in" and appear as part of the host community. As a result, the buildings embody an important trend in twentieth century eclecticism - the use of a historical style for a symbolic purpose.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: Building 5, the Hospital built in 1948, is T shaped with ends of the long front section set back at a 45 degree angle. Off of the northern cocked wing at the right, a one story corridor extends to the corner of Building 1, which is L shaped. Building 1 was built in 1920. The two buildings share many Jacobethan style architectural features.

The two styles of Jacobethan in Building 1 and the mix of Jacobethan with Gothic in Building 5 blend together as they share many architectural details as well as finish building materials of brick with stone mullions, transoms and sills. The bay windows of the Jacobethan building are echoed in Building 5, and the prominent towers serve to reinforce one another.

2. Integrity/Condition of Fabric: No major buildings have been added close by enough to the historic buildings to detract significantly from the complex to compromise the integrity of the site as an architectural entity. The buildings themselves have had very little alteration since they were built. The buildings and site still appear as one cohesive element in design and ambience.

B. Site:

1. General Setting and Orientation: Situated on forty beautifully landscaped acres, Buildings 1 and 5 command the highest location in the center of the site. The National Register eligible acreage, however, is limited to the immediate grounds of the two buildings and the front grounds to the East, as

they provide a lovely vista of the buildings from the south, east, and north. The acreage is bordered on the north by 22nd Street, by 26th Street on the south and Garfield Avenue runs to the rear of the complex on the west. The main entrance on 22nd Streets enters at the side of the main building, #5, which faces east. The nominated acreage is bordered on the west by the remaining support buildings of the VA Medical Center.

2. List of Buildings within Historic District:

<u>BLDG.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>BUILDING USE</u>
1	1920	Contributing	Nursing Home Care Unit and Medical School
		Offices	
5	1948	Contributing	Hospital
14	unk.	Contributing	Flag Pole
22	1966	Non-Contributing	Recreation Shelter - NHCU
23	unk.	Intrusion	Oxygen Storage Pad
24	unk.	Intrusion	Auxiliary Power Unit
25	unk.	Intrusion	Pad Mounted Transformer
26	unk.	Intrusion	Air Cooler Chiller Unit Pad
33	unk.	Intrusion	Transformer Pad
36	unk.	Intrusion	Transformer Pad
37	unk.	Intrusion	A/E Pad - ICU
38	1984	Intrusion	Regional Office Bldg.
T-14	1947	Intrusion	Storage Building

C. Description of Buildings:

1. Construction:

- a. Foundation: concrete
- b. Structural System: steel frame and masonry
- c. Walls: brick
- d. Roof: slate
- e. Windows: multi-light double hung, some bay
- f. Details: stone sills, lintels and jambs; roof parapets gothic arches and towers; corner buttresses

2. Historical Appearance:

- a. General Site: Prior to the construction of Building 5 in 1948, the only structures on the site were Building 1, the main classroom building, and a gymnasium and a boiler plant. Only Building 1 is in the historic district.
- b. Building Descriptions: The four and five story brick hospital, Building 5, done in a pleasing blend of Jacobethan and Gothic, has a fairly steep gabled roof that is highlighted by parapets, stepped at the bottom

and has crockets at the top. The brick finish is punctuated by multi-story window bays, one on each side, topped with wall dormers. The other windows are double hung and surrounded with stone sills, lintels and jambs. The building footprint is fairly symmetrical but the facade is not, typical of Gothic Revival and Jacobethan architecture.

The centered main entrance is through a Tudor arch with stone and brick door surrounds that include corner buttresses. This entry is in a tall tower with parapet roof that features twin windows in Gothic arches, with a stone crest below. To the left of the tower is a gabled projecting pavilion. The portion to the right, from the tower to the bend, is five stories high; the remainder of the building is four stories. At every corner or set back there are corner buttresses with weatherings. The flat roofed wing to the rear is plain, without architectural flourishes but in character with the rest of Building 5.

Building 1, the architectural inspiration for Building 5, has many of the same architectural features, including multi-story bay windows topped with wall dormers and steep gabled roofs with parapets. The building is three and a half stories high. It has a taller five story section on the end of the west wing that features a taller tower with an integral balcony. The building represents the principles and forms of academic correctness in the Jacobethan style. It is now used as a Nursing Home Care Unit.

3. Current Appearance and Changes: The greatest change in the site over 65 and 37 years has been the maturing of the trees and shrubs. Much interior renovation work has been undertaken over the years.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings:

Engineering Office, Sioux Falls Veterans Administration
and Regional Office Center

Micro-fiche and blueprint copies are available:

Historic Preservation Office, Veterans Administration,
Office of Construction, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW,
Washington, DC 20420

B. Early Views:

Photographs available in the VA's Historic Preservation
Office; see A above

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and Unpublished Sources:

Veterans Administration Title Files

2. Secondary and Published Sources:

The National Building Museum and The Veterans Administration, "The Nation Builds For Those Who Served," pamphlet published by the Museum.

VA Medical Care; House Committee Print No. 4; 90th Cong. 1st Session, "Hospital Planning by the Construction Service of the Veterans Administration."

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

A. Federal Agency:

Veterans Administration, Office of Construction

B. Project Name:

Addition/Renovation for Ambulatory Care, Clinical Services, Administration and Education
Project No. 438-020

C. Architect:

TSP (The Spritznagel Partners, Inc.)
1112 West Avenue North
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

D. Contractor:

M.A. Mortonson, Co.
700 Meadow Lane North
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55422

E. Cost:

\$9,924,000; Awarded 9/28/84

F. Scope:

1. Renovation of interior spaces in Building 5, basement and first floors.
2. New one story addition at basement level in front of Building 5 - mostly underground and/or earth sheltered; one story additions to the rear center wing.

G. Project Description:

1. Siting: The site of the new addition is at the front of Building 5 at the basement level and to the rear of Building 5, on either side of the center wing, at the basement level. The front portion will be partially underground with earth covering most of the north third of the addition. Partial earth berming will be done on both sides of the new main entrance, which is centered on the old main entrance on the new east facade.
2. Design: The front addition is an extension of the existing ground floor. It takes advantage of the gently sloping grades to provide a grade level entrance, the only significant part to show on the otherwise earth-sheltered addition. Another loading dock area is above ground on the south end of the addition. The parts that show above ground are finished in reddish-brown brick to match the existing building. The entrance is straddled by symmetrical stairs to the plaza level (the addition's roof). Pre-cast concrete bands (to match existing limestone) give detail to the small segments of brick wall.

The new entrance also has a cantilevered translucent tunnel vault as a canopy, supported by a free standing wall with an arched opening above which is a false gable decorated by the VA seal.

The existing first floor entrance is preserved and now opens to a lowered plaza on the roof of the addition. Approximately 1/3 of the roof is treated as a plaza with walkways, benches, and skylights (to the new ground floor below). Another 1/6 of the roof is grass; the remaining 1/2 to the south is covered with gravel. Though the new roof level is 2'-0" above the existing first floor height, the roof steps back at the existing building to mitigate the effects of the new addition to this significant facade.

The remaining two additions straddle the existing rear wing. Both are simple in design, following the simplicity of the rear of the existing Building 5, since it has a "Queen Anne front with a Mary Anne behind." The windows are grouped to simulate the existing window configurations.